Please Support:

HB 22, Revise electricity supply resource contract length, Rep. Laurie Bishop (D-Livingston), H-Energy, Technology and Federal Relations. Support. HB 22 returns contract lengths for independent wind and solar “Qualifying Facilities” (QF’s) to 25 years, the same length they were before a harmful 2017 Public Service Commission ruling. QF’s are the largest driver of new wind and solar projects in Montana. 25 years is a standard contract length for power plants. NorthWestern itself has asked for and received guaranteed revenue recovery for its own power plants at lengths of 25, 30, 34, and 50 years. Contact Brian Fadie, Montana Environmental Information Center, 406.210.7591, bfadie@meic.org.

HB 271 Revise laws related to siting pipeline, Rep. Bridget Smith (D-Wolf Point) H-Natural Resources Committee; Support. Requires that new pipelines, such as the Keystone XL Pipeline, be located within the footprint of existing pipeline infrastructure and that the pipeline avoid sensitive areas such as state parks, federal Wilderness areas, and tribally recognized cultural sites. It also requires installation of shut-off valves to protect freshwater resources, and a more thorough analysis of a proposed pipeline’s impacts to Montana heritage properties. The bill also requires that the pipeline be constructed within seven years of permit approval. Contact Derf Johnson, Montana Environmental Information Center, 406.581.4634, djohnson@meic.org.

HB 292, Extend Funding to Coal Board, Rep. Barry Usher (R - Billings), In First House; Support. HB 292 would extend the increased share of revenue going to the coal board to 2023. The money could be used by local governments to deal with the impacts caused by increased or decreased coal production. Contact Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center, 406.461.9546. ahedges@meic.org.

HB 314, Require certain utilities to file general rate cases, Rep. Tom Woods (D - Bozeman); H-Energy, Technology and Federal Relations, Support. Allows the Montana Public Service Commission (PSC) to initiate a “rate case” every three years. The bill does not require a rate case every three years, but it grants the PSC the option to do so. Rate cases are important because they make sure the rates utility customer pay are not higher than necessary. NorthWestern Energy is currently undergoing a rate case, however it’s previous rate case was 10 years ago. Contact Brian Fadie, Montana Environmental Information Center, 406.210.7591, bfadie@meic.org.

HB 417, Generally revise major facility siting act, Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D - Browning); H-Natural Resources Hearing 2/20/2019, Support. This common sense bill would require that if significant new environmental issues or information is discovered for a project that is required to have a Major Facility Siting Act (MFSA) certificate, the MFSA certificate holder is found to have made false statements about the project in applying for the certificate, or if the MFSA certificate holder fails to maintain safety standards to comply with the certificate, the Department of Environmental Quality must suspend or revoke the certificate. This bill could apply to the Keystone
XL pipeline forcing the company and state to take a harder look to prevent disastrous spills that could affect the drinking and irrigation water for tens of thousands of people in Northeastern Montana.

Contact Cody Ferguson, NPRC, 509.845.9309

**HB 437, Require utilities to bear the burden of proof in rate cases, Rep. Tom Woods (D-Bozeman), H- Energy, Technology, and Federal Relations; Hearing 2/18/19, Rm. 472; Support.** Currently, when a utility files a rate case - which can be thousands of pages - it often does not actually justify its expenditures and proposed rates in the filing. Instead, the utility makes the PSC and intervenors comb through the complex filing to find the information and prove unjustified costs. HB 437 makes the utility justify its costs and proposed changes in the initial filing. Contact Brian Fadie, MEIC, 406.443.2520. bfadie@meic.org

**HJ 15/HJ 16, both bills support the idea of electric vehicle infrastructure, Rep. Chris Pope (D-Bozeman), H- Energy, Technology, and Federal Relations; Hearing 2/20/19, Rm. 472; Support.** HJ 16 is an electric vehicle infrastructure preparedness study bill, while HJ 15 expresses support for electric vehicles. Contact Brian Fadie, MEIC, 406.443.2520. bfadie@meic.org

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**Please Oppose:**

**HB 265, Revise laws related to approval of FWP easements, Rep. Kerry White (R-Bozeman); H- Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Oppose.** This bill would add an unnecessary layer of government to conservation easements for fish and wildlife habitat conservation and public hunting access. It would require state Land Board approval for conservation easements under the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Habitat Montana program. It would nullify a 2018 state Supreme Court ruling that found easements were not intended to go through the Land Board, and are final, once approved by the state Fish and Wildlife Commission. Contact Nick Gevock, Montana Wildlife Federation, 406.533.9432, ngevock@mtwf.org.

**HB 279, Allow for wolf trapper expense reimbursement, Rep. Bob Brown (R-Thompson Falls); H- Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Oppose.** This bill would allow an Idaho-based group to pay trappers for wolves killed. It amounts to a bounty on wolves, and would violate Montana’s long standing tradition of not paying people for the killing of game animals. Montana has a healthy ethical, fair chase hunting and trapping heritage and that includes gray wolves and bounties are unnecessary to meet our wildlife management objectives. Contact Nick Gevock, Montana Wildlife Federation, 406.533.9432, ngevock@mtwf.org.

**HB 418, Clarify state's position on global warming and greenhouse gases, Rep. Joe Read (R-Ronan), H- Natural Resources, Hearing 2/18/2019. Oppose.** HB 418 would throw out scientific consensus surrounding climate change and establish a policy of miseducating students about the effects of greenhouse gas emissions on our climate, economy, and social well-being. Further, it aims

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to eliminate any tax incentives intended to address climate change and inform public opinion on the topic. The bill would have a harmful, multi-generational effect on how we address climate change in Montana, and could take the steering wheel out of our hands in creating climate policy that best suits the state’s interests. Contact Malcolm Gilbert, MEIC, 406-443-2520, mgilbert@meic.org.

**HB 332, Require county approval to relocate bison, Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R-Fort Benton), H-Natural Resources, Hearing 2/18/2019. Oppose.** This bill would require approval by a board of county commissioners prior to wild bison or wild buffalo being released into a county. This erodes FWP authority over wildlife, and the bill is written so that prohibiting bison in a county could be enforced by a county growth policy. This would be the only instance when a growth policy has regulatory power. Contact Amy Seaman, MT Audobon, aseaman@mtaudubon.org, 406-210-9449


**HB 476, Provide low-interest loans for coal-fired generation, Rep. Jim Keane (D-Butte), H-Energy and Telecommunications, Hearing 2/20/2019. Oppose.** HB 476 would authorize the Montana Board of Investments to offer low interest loans to NorthWestern Energy to pay for a coal unloading facility so the Colstrip plant can get coal from other coal mine’s instead of the Rosebud mine or buy an increased share of the Colstrip plant. Contact Anne Hedges, MEIC, 461-9546.

**HB 487, Revise RPS to include hydropower, Rep. Derek Skees (R-Kalispell), H-Energy and Telecommunications, Hearing 2/18/2019. Oppose.** The Renewable Portfolio Standard was designed to result in new renewable energy. This bill would count 100+ year old hydroelectric dams under the RPS and undermine its purpose. Contact Brian Fadie, MEIC, 406.443.2520. bfadie@meic.org